



OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKERS

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Official Texas Historical Marker Program commemorates diverse topics from the history and architecture of houses, commercial and public buildings, religious congregations, and events that changed the course of local and state history, to individuals who have made lasting contributions to our state, community organizations, businesses, military sites, and many more.

What We Do

Official Texas Historical Markers provide Texans and travelers tangible links to the past. A vital part of the state's heritage tourism efforts, markers convey stories of local, regional, state, and national history. More than 15,000 historical markers dot the Texas landscape, many with the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation, the highest honor the state bestows on historic properties for architectural and historical significance. The other types of historical markers are Historic Texas Cemetery markers for historic graveyards and subject markers, which interpret a wide variety of topics throughout Texas. Staff members work with property owners, county historical commissions (CHC), and other preservation organizations to place historical markers all across the state.

Requirements

Age, significance, and architectural requirements govern the eligibility of topics and sites when applying for either a subject marker, Historic Texas Cemetery marker, or a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark marker. Applications must be submitted to the CHC for review and approval. Each new and replacement historical marker includes a \$100 application fee that funds special markers to address historical gaps, promote diversity of topics, and proactively document untold stories of our state.



Settlement Community marker in Galveston County

Types of Markers

Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs)

are properties judged to be historically and architecturally significant. The THC awards RTHL designation to buildings at least 50 years old that are judged worthy of preservation for their architectural and historical associations.

RTHL is a legal designation and comes with a measure of protection; it is the highest honor the state can bestow on a historic structure. Purchase and display of a historical marker is a required component of the RTHL designation process. Owners of RTHL-designated structures must give the THC 60 days notice before any alterations are made to the exterior of the structure. Unsympathetic changes to these properties may result in removal of the designation and historical marker. To nominate a property, the owner's consent is required.

Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) markers are only for burial grounds previously awarded a HTC designation. These markers recognize the historical significance of a cemetery and, with the use of interpretive plaques, provide background on associated communities, families, events, and customs. HTC markers must be placed at the cemetery, but since cemeteries are protected under other existing laws, they convey no restrictions on the property.

Subject markers are solely educational, and reveal aspects of local history that are important to a community or region. These markers honor topics such as church congregations, schools, communities, businesses, events, and individuals. A subject marker is placed at a site that has a historical association with the topic, but no restriction is placed on the use of the property or site. No legal designation is required for a subject marker.

Centennial markers were placed in nearly every Texas county in 1936 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Texas' independence from Mexico. The State of Texas placed about 1,100 exposition buildings, memorial museums, statues, and granite and bronze markers and monuments around the state. The THC, created in 1953, monitors the 1936 Centennial markers and coordinates their repair or relocation when necessary.

More Information

Additional information about the Official Texas Historical Marker program, forms, research guides, and tools can be found at:
www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigns/madmark.shtml.



Left: Aransas County centennial marker; right: Bull Hill Cemetery marker in Falls County

How to Reach Us

Staff members are available to answer questions and provide marker assistance. Please contact us at:
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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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